



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum
today:**

US\$ 63.45
0.1

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

SUICIDE SQUAD



Pakistani police officers stand next to a crater at the site of suicide car bombing in Lahore, Pakistan on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. A suicide car bomber targeted buildings housing police and intelligence agency offices in eastern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing around 30 and wounding more than 100 in one of the deadliest such blasts in the country this year, officials said.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

MAGIC MOUNTAIN



Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard reacts as the Magic defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers 116-114 in overtime during Game 4 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals Tuesday, May 26, 2009, in Orlando, Fla.

See *Sports Today*

RBC/RBTT opens new Caribbean headquarters



St. Clair Place, RBTT's new headquarters, was formally opened in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on May 12. Once the integration of RBC and RBTT has been completed, St. Clair Place will become the centre for the entire RBC Caribbean network—from The Bahamas to Suriname.

Port of Spain, May 20, 2009 — A symbol of growth and expansion is how Jim Westlake, RBC Group Head – International Banking & Insurance described the new Port of Spain headquarters of the RBTT Financial Group, a recently acquired RBC company.

Formally opened on May 12, St. Clair Place will serve as RBTT's leadership core and nerve centre. Once the integration of RBC and RBTT has been completed, it will become the nucleus for the entire RBC Caribbean network—from The Bahamas in the north to Suriname in the south.

"As I look up at the logo here in Port of Spain, I have a real sense of having come home," said Westlake during his remarks at the formal opening. "Not that we ever left—mind you—as RBC has had a strong history in the Caribbean dating back to 1899. In fact, many of you might have heard that RBC had a branch in the Caribbean before we had one in Toronto."

Today, RBC's home market remains in Canada, which has been rated by the World Economic Forum and the IMF as having the world's soundest banking system. Referring to the Canadian banking system, prior to cutting the ribbon, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Patrick Manning said, "Its established and transparent regulatory framework prevented the adventurous excesses that contributed significantly to the collapse of longstanding financial institutions in other countries. We must continue to learn from the Canadian experience."

In delivering welcome remarks, RBTT CEO Suresh Sookoo



RBC and RBTT executives chat in front of their new Caribbean headquarters in Port of Spain, Trinidad at the official opening on May 12. (Left to right): Jim Westlake, RBC Group Head – International Banking & Insurance; Rod Pennycook, RBC Executive Vice President – International Banking; Peter July, Chairman – RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited; Suresh Sookoo, CEO – RBTT Financial Group.

said, "It feels good to be a part of RBC." He explained that RBC has been able to withstand the challenges of today's economic environment largely because of a history of prudent risk management and a well-managed, diversified portfolio. RBC, Canada's largest bank; the fifth largest bank in North America; and the thirteenth largest bank globally, is one of only seven banks globally with a Moody's triple-A credit rating.

"RBC is one of the best examples of an institution realising the value of banking prudence in a time of instability, generating more than C\$4.5 billion in earnings in 2008 and C\$1 billion in the first quarter of 2009," said Sookoo.

St. Clair Place comprises two linked-buildings—seven and six storeys, respectively. The building houses the offices of the executive, key functional areas such as Human Resources and Corporate Communications & Brand, as well as certain business units including Capital Markets, Corporate Banking, Sales and Trading, and Asset Management.

The formal opening of St. Clair Place was also used as the opportunity to present a cheque for USD. 200,000 to double world-record-breaking cricketer Brian Lara in his capacity as chairman of the Cancer Treatment Foundation. The donation was the first of five contributions of USD. 200,000 the Bank will be making to the Foundation annually over the next five years from the RBC/RBTT Caribbean Children's Cancer Fund.

The Fund was recently established to assist young persons across the Caribbean under the age of 16 who have been diagnosed with cancer. □

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11 pm
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686. ☐



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This vibrant unforgettable sail provides a casual Mexican Buffet Dinner and a complimentary bar featuring Coronita beer, Margaritas, and Tequilas. Watch the sun set, the colors of the sky change and the island slowly light up. This is the perfect sail to celebrate the end of a Caribbean day and the start of a fun filled Caribbean night.



To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba.com.

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From Richard Stockton College Of New Jersey

Stacy Brete Receives Her Bachelors Degree in Marine Biology

ORANJESTAD - Aruba has another young student to be proud of. After years of dedication and discipline Stacy Brete has earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

On May 9, 2009 Stacy received her diploma at the graduation ceremony which was held on campus. Situated a few miles west of Atlantic City, the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey is located on the edge of the Pine Barrens in Southern New Jersey.

This region is an

environmentally protected area of wetlands which has successfully fought off development in order to protect one of the largest natural under water reservoirs in the USA. Given the location of the school and its involvement in protecting the wetlands, the college is ranked as one of the best colleges for Environmental Studies in the country.

Before Stacy left Aruba to obtain her degree in Marine Biology, she completed her PADI Dive Master training which provided her with the opportunity to participate in various labs and scuba

internships in the Florida Keys. Stacy will be continuing her Marine Biology studies by obtaining her Masters Degree but not before coming back to her beloved Aruba.

Stacy's ultimate goal is to be of service to Aruba. With her extensive knowledge of marine environmental issues, Stacy plans to help bring more attention, awareness and solutions to protect and preserve our coastal waters. Congratulations are in order from Stacy's parents Eric and Nancy Brete as well as from her brother Adrian along with numerous friends and family. □

Edcomm Banker's Academy Introduces AML Free Training for the Netherlands Antilles

Edcomm Banker's Academy introduces a free tutorial that provides AML training for financial institutions located in the Netherlands Antilles.

(live-PR.com) - New York, NY, May 27, 2009 - Edcomm Banker's Academy introduces a free tutorial that provides Anti Money Laundering (AML) training for banks and financial institutions located in the Netherlands Antilles. Focus on AML for the Netherlands Antilles offers an overview of the AML laws and regulations that are specific to financial institutions in this Caribbean country. In 1993, the Netherlands Antilles developed legislation to establish money laundering as a crime. In more recent years, the government has expanded suspicious activity reporting requirements and modified existing money laundering legislation that penalizes currency and securities transactions. The 2002 National Ordinance on the Supervision of Fiduciary Business, for example, institutes a Supervisory Board that oversees the international financial sector. The government requires members

of this sector to adhere to Know Your Customer (KYC) rules.

Focus on Anti Money Laundering, from Edcomm Banker's Academy, teaches bank employees about AML laws in their country and familiarizes them with their company's own policies and procedures. Through this interactive course, students learn everything they need to know to detect and prevent money laundering. Focus on Anti Money Laundering can be customized to meet the needs of every Bank, Credit Union, or Money Services Business (MSB). Each course is regularly updated to include changing laws and policies. Recognizing that money laundering can occur anywhere and everywhere, Edcomm Banker's Academy is prepared to create a course for any country in need. For more information about multilingual, multicultural training programs, or to find out how The Edcomm Group Banker's Academy can customize any training program in any language, for any country, log onto www.bankersacademy.com

or call +1.212.631.9400

The Edcomm Group Banker's Academy is a 22-year-old multimedia education and communication consulting firm specializing in the development of creative business solutions that improve productivity, customer service and market share - providing bottom-line results. The Edcomm Group Banker's Academy has had the privilege of assisting many distinguished clients with business solutions in the form of eLearning programs, classroom instruction, multimedia production and online and print based documentation. Edcomm Banker's Academy offers many off-the-shelf and customized courses such as Teller Training, Compliance Training and Systems Training specifically designed for Banks, Credit Unions and Money Services Businesses (MSBs). The Edcomm Group Banker's Academy (www.bankersacademy.com) is headquartered in New York City with locations and representation throughout the world. □

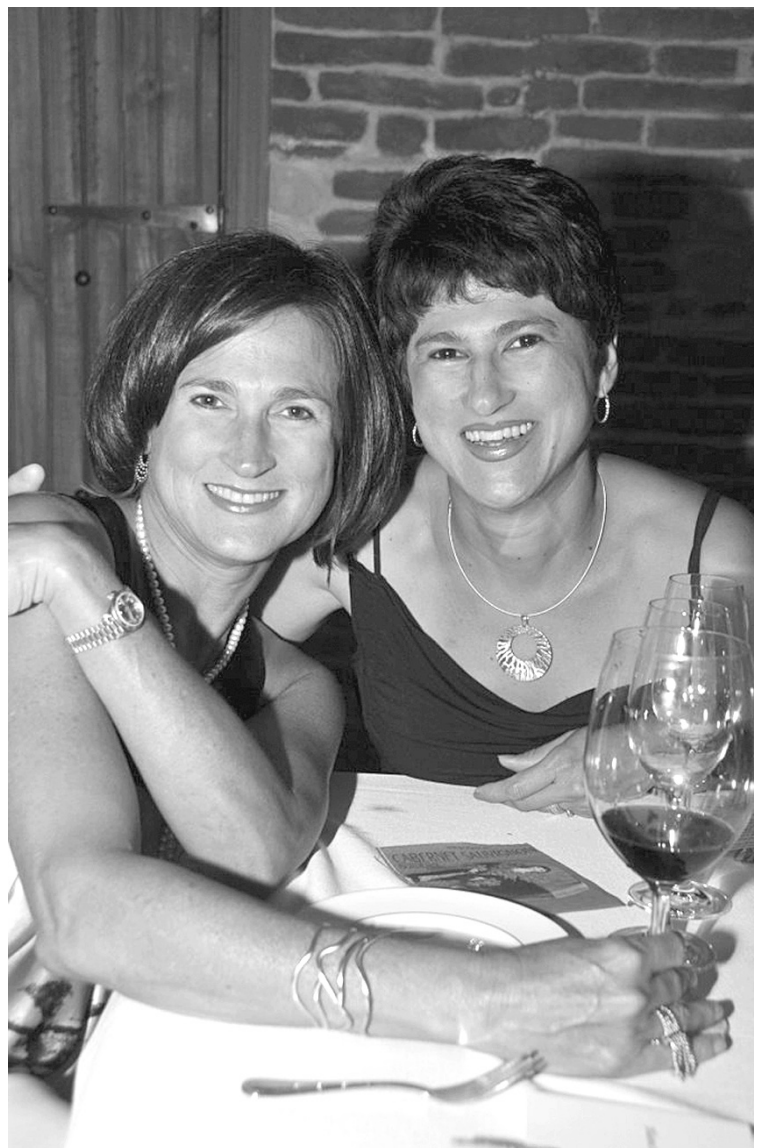
Blanca celebrates Birthday at La Bodega



ORANJESTAD - Birthday Girl Blanca Mansur celebrated her birthday in style in the private wine tasting room of La Bodega. Celebrating her birthday with a delicious array of treats and fine wines were Sharon Croes, Kiki Valvis, Audrey Smit, Ilien Mansur, Jessica Croes, Patricia Mansur, Mada Mansur, Joseline Barroso, Darlene Ponse and Jackie Croes. The evening ended with the enjoyment of the finest wines and a chocolate sheet cake that each and everyone enjoyed, but was way, way to big to devour. Romar Being part of Romar Trading, La Bodega initiated these tasting sessions in order to make the wine-loving public more aware of the extensive wine portfolio



which is distributed locally by restaurants, hotels, bars and La Bodega. □
at most supermarkets, *Photos by Julia Renfro*





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VIPs go crazy for Famous Long Crab Legs at Moby Dick's

PALM BEACH – The Fresh Delivery of Oysters of this week were finished in just 48 hours as guests enjoyed free champagne oyster festival this week at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant. Not only tourist visiting from all over the United States and Canada for the Soul Beach Music Festival enjoyed the treasures of the sea from Aruba's most popular seafood restaurant, locals joined in for the most famous cocktail ever "The Bloody Oyster".

Moby Dick's is the only place on the island to savor the legendary Bloody Oyster - the ultimate delicacy only known by deep sea connoisseurs who take pleasure in its delight on Sunday mornings. No need to wait for Sunday for this deep sea concoction of Fresh Oysters, Cooked Shrimp, Cold Vodka, Tomato Juice, Tabasco, Lime Juice, Black Pepper and Celery. On Tuesday night, a group of nearly 2 dozen members of the Chamber of Commerce for Central America and the Caribbean enjoyed their second evening of treasures of the sea at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant. Owners Brian and Lus Marina together with Gilbert were there as not only the experts of the fruits of the sea, but as ambassadors to the island of Aruba for their wonderful hospitality. □

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U.S. Consulate General to Donate Baseball Equipment, Sponsor Visit of Kingdom Baseball Manager Rod Delmonico

The United States Consulate General Curacao is proud to sponsor the visit of Kingdom of The Netherlands National Baseball Team Manager Rod Delmonico, May 29-31, 2009. Mr. Delmonico, a U.S. citizen, managed the Kingdom's "Cinderella" team that beat the Dominican Republic twice at the World Baseball Classic last March. Mr. Delmonico will participate in two baseball training clinics organized by the Curacao Baseball City Foundation and other partners.

The baseball clinics will be held in Curacao at the Tio Daou Ballpark on Friday, May 29, between 4-6pm and at the Frank Curiel Ballpark on Saturday, May 30,

between 6-8pm. In addition to providing baseball clinics, Mr. Delmonico will attend the finals of the Curacao Little League series and, along with U.S. Consul General Timothy Dunn, throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Minor league game between Willemstad and Pariba at Frank Curiel Ballpark on Saturday, May 30, at 10am. Prior to the game, the U.S. Consulate General will donate a pitching machine, batting cage, and other baseball equipment to Sedreko. We are pleased to cooperate with the Curacao Little League Foundation, RBTT bank, and the Curacao Baseball City Foundation in these wonderful events that benefit the youth of Curacao.

BIO ROD DELMONICO

Rod Delmonico was named Manager of the Kingdom of the Netherlands baseball team in 2008. He guided the team into the second round of the World Baseball Classic in March 2009.

Rod Delmonico worked at Florida State University in Tallahassee as an assistant baseball coach in 2008, the same University where he worked as top assistant coach and lead recruiter for head coach Mike Martin from 1984-1989.


Delmonico departed Tallahassee in 1990 to become the head coach at the University of Tennessee. He spent 18 seasons in Knoxville




where he compiled a record of 699-396 which included nine 40-win seasons and two 50-win seasons. With a 34-25 finish in 2007, Delmonico guided the Vols to their seventh 30-win season in the last eight years and 16th overall. During his time at Tennessee, Delmonico led Tennessee to four SEC Eastern Division Titles, two SEC Conference championships and eight NCAA Regional appearances. In four all-time appearances at the College World Series, Delmonico was at the helm for three of those seasons guiding Tennessee to Omaha in 1995, 2001 and 2005. He is the winningest baseball coach in Tennessee history.

In addition, Delmonico was named Baseball America's 1995 National Coach of the Year, SEC Coach of the Year in 1994 and 1995 and Tennessee Baseball Coach of the Year in 1994, 1995 and 2001. During his overall coaching career, he has been a part of teams that have participated in the College World Series six times, made 14 NCAA Regional appearances, won 10 conference or division titles and posted nine conference tournament championships. A native of Wilmington, N.C., Delmonico has coached several players in over 28 seasons as a collegiate coach who have made significant contributions at the major league level including Deion Sanders, Paul Sorrento, Luis Alicea, Jimmy Key, Joe

Randa, Todd Helton, Luke Hochevar and Chris Burke. Prior to his first arrival in Tallahassee in 1984, Delmonico began his coaching career as a graduate assistant coach at Gloucester County College, a Division III school in Sewell, N.J. A year later he moved to Clemson University where he served as a graduate assistant coach for two seasons (1982-1983) under former head coach Bill Wilhelm. He has also penned four books, Hit and Run Baseball, Offensive Drills, Defensive Baseball and Defensive Drills, and produced a video tape entitled, Aggressive Base Running. In addition, he has been a contributing writer to numerous national coaching periodicals, including Scholastic Coach and Collegiate Baseball. He is also a sought-after lecturer and speaker at various national baseball clinics and national companies. He has also made trips to Italy, Germany and Austria to teach the game of baseball. Delmonico graduated from Liberty University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in physical education where he lettered in baseball and soccer. He later obtained a master's degree in education administration from Clemson in 1983. He is married to the former Barbara Vanaman of Williamstown, New Jersey with three sons, Tony, Joey and Nicky. □



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Ministry of Health

**Department of Public Health
Aruba**

Welcome to Aruba

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To keep you and everyone around you safe, practice the following good health habits

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Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- 2. Cover your mouth and nose**
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- 3. Clean your hands**
Washing your hands often will protect you from germs.
- 4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth**
Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- 5. Practice other good health habits**
Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.
- 6. Feeling sick?**
Please call 588-7381 / 588-7130

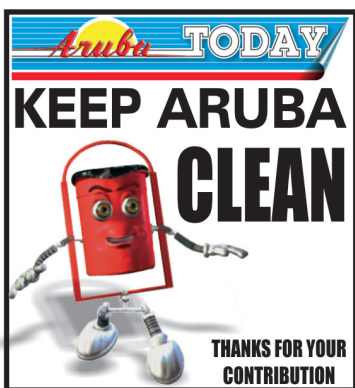


Larry & Kay Wall honored at the Bucuti Beach Resort

ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Bucuti Beach Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title.

The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Bucuti Beach Resort they call their home away from home. Larry & Kay Wall were honored as Distinguished Visitors after visiting Aruba for 10 years

Pictured Mr. Ricardo Croes from ATA together with Larry & Kay and also Deborah from the Bucuti Resort. □



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The Turtle Cove offers tropical lunch in town



ORANJESTAD – At the end of a shopping spree in town, The Turtle Cove is an excellent spot to restore and refresh, right in the heart of Oranjestad.

Located on the second floor of Aruba's central bus terminal the colorful tropical café offers genuine Caribbean recipes in a most-charming alfresco setting, with caring and courteous service, easy-on-the-pocket prices.

Well-known foodie, Jose Lacle is at the helm of the eatery, he's always had an ardent and defined interest in food especially Creole and regional seafood preparations.

The delicious offerings on The Turtle Cove menu are directly related to his cuisine preferences featuring a refreshing change, Caribbean Coconut Shrimp, lightly sautéed in garlic & butter, swimming in coconut sauce, not battered, not fried, just crunchy shrimp, in a sweet shredded coconut sauce with cilantro!

And the Fish & Seafood list features as many as one dozen mouthwatering selections, which speak louder than words about his fondness of the bounty of the sea.

Fish in Creamy Garlic, Caribbean Lobster, Fish Cakes, and the beloved Aruban Style Fish are served with rice, steamed vegetable and plantains, naturally.

Light appetizers, hearty soups, colossal salads, Fajitas, Quesadillas and a most-satisfying Land Aficionados



section - try the Curry Mango Chicken, it's yummy – round up the menu. And the Fried Cheese Cake is a standout dessert, served with a cool scoop of vanilla ice cream.

The airy, comfortable bar shows sports on TV most

hours of the day paired with an ongoing \$2 beer happy-hour.

The café enjoys ample parking, right below, at the central bus stop.

It doesn't get any better than that. □



WEMA announces the winner of Mother's Day Campaign



ORANJESTAD – During the month of May, WEMA held a special promotion for Mothers. Many Moms won great prizes from the kitchen department and other departments of the store. The grand winner of Mother's May was Hilderswind Fernandes and Delia Blanco who

won Afl.250.-, S. Ashby , Zachary Koolman, Hennita Oduber, Anastacia Boekhoudt and Rose Anne Jacobs won Afl. 100.00 each. Every winner was very happy with their Mother's Day surprise. Happy Mother's Month to all of the winners from WEMA. □



The Aruba Police Corps expand fleet with Dog Unit



ORANJESTAD - The control of trade in narcotics is one of the priorities that the Aruban Authorities "KPA" has set itself to fight. Until now, the detection of drug trafficking has been at the availability of the facilities of the US Customs Service. This was always subject to the availability of the narcotic

drug dogs from the Customs Service. The flexibility was therefore necessary that the KPA has made the decision to add a narcotic drug dog team. In the 1st half of 2008, it has been in the framework of cooperation in the enforcement chain, by the Minister of Justice of the Netherlands Antilles, a narcotic drug dog

donated to the KPA. It was also the possibility the dog, a guide and an instructor to lead to the Customs of the Dutch Antilles. The narcotic drug dog is able, in addition to drugs including firearms, ammunition and the ability to detect large amounts of money. The narcotic drug dog named Britt, and the guide from May



2008 operational. The narcotic drug dog has more than 60 hits in studies of firearms, money and drugs. For example: Britt discovered 1.6 million guilders in cash and a recent theft of a large number of firearms, a beagle and her guide helped. The guide has also assisted dozens of times in case of aggressive dogs. In addition, the narcotic drug dog has been involved several

times with great support and has been assigned to the information in the field of drugs in schools and in the tourism sector with the Board of the Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation. With a car specially designed for the transportation of the narcotic drug dog, the Aruba is better equipped for its role in the detection of narcotics, firearms, ammunition and money to trace. □

Friday Flamenco Fiesta; Well Worth The Short Trip Downtown **Paella & Flamenco at Casa Tua Downtown on Friday**

DOWNTOWN - Casa Tua Barcelona draws a crowd of island guests and locals every Friday evening for a fantastic night of Spanish Dancing and Paella. Everyone loves the Tapas Pata Negra, Sangria and Flamenco show in the great upstairs atmosphere of this popular downtown restaurant.

Downtown Aventura Mall Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

Join us tomorrow night for the most incredible night of your life!

Casa Tua Palm Beach
open 5pm to 11pm.

Casa Tua Downtown
open 11am to 11pm, Sundays
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Or ask your concierge.



Historic artefacts will be returned to St. Maarten

PHILIPSBURG--Several of St. Maarten's archaeological artefacts currently being held on Curaçao will be returned to St. Maarten, Culture Commissioner Maria Buncamper-Molanus announced Tuesday. "Part of St. Maarten's history is returning to the people of St. Maarten..."

We are on our way to country status and as such it is important for us to secure as many parts of our history as possible for future generations," Buncamper-Molanus explained. The Executive Council informed Culture Minister Omayra Leeflang via letter that St. Maarten has decided to seek the return of the artefacts at the earliest opportunity

via the Dutch Naval vessel Pelikaan.

The artefacts are currently at the National Archaeological and Anthropological Museum on Curaçao (NAAM). Once back on St. Maarten, the registration of the returned material can be carried out with the cooperation of the St. Maarten Museum and the St. Maarten Archaeological Centre (SIMARC).

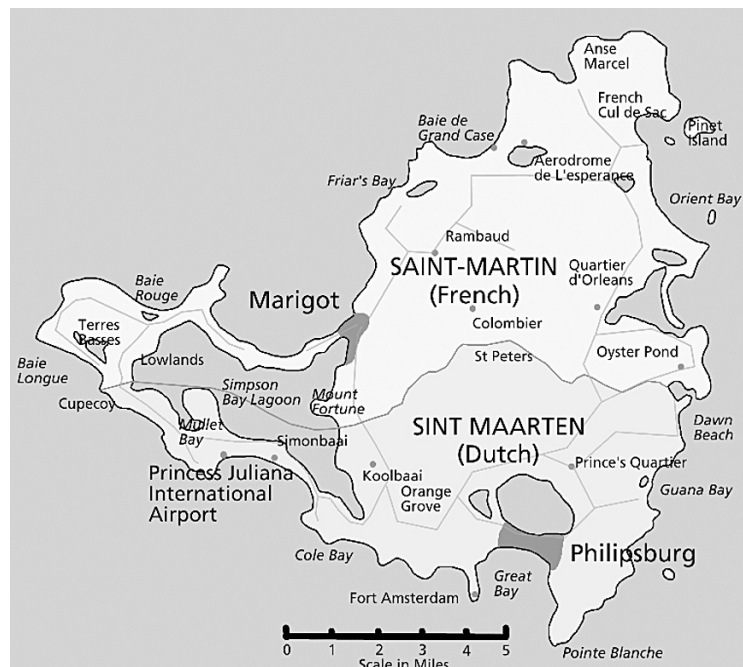
"St. Maarten participated in a meeting organized by NAAM in Curaçao in March, which focused on the implications the constitutional changes of all of the islands will have on the management of the cultural resources of the Netherlands Antilles and in particular on the cultural heritage of the individual islands,"

Buncamper-Molanus said.

"There were several points of views exchanged on issues such as sharing of knowledge, educational projects and archaeological research between the islands. The one thing I believe which was made clear was that historical artefacts belonging to the islands that were shipped to Curaçao at some point in time in the past, should be returned to the islands.

"I am extremely pleased that our artefacts will soon be back home where our people and most importantly our children can study, learn, embrace, respect and own significant parts of their history," the commissioner added.

The artefacts that will be returned were identified by Dr.



Jay Haviser of SIMARC at the NAAM facility. They include artefacts from Cupecoy Bay and Hope Estate, several from Fort Amsterdam - including

one cannon and one cannon carriage - with two wheel sets, and general surveys of St. Maarten (Belvedere and other areas) □

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Aruba TODAY

Don't drink & DRIVE

A graphic with the text "Aruba TODAY" at the top, followed by "Don't drink & DRIVE" in large, bold letters. To the right is a red circle with a diagonal line through it, containing a white silhouette of a car and a glass, representing a prohibition on drinking and driving.

AT&T: Overeager employees helped 'Idol' fans text



FILE - In this May 20, 2009 file photo, American Idol finalists Adam Lambert, left, and Kris Allen arrive to the season finale of American Idol in Los Angeles.

By **LYNN ELBER**,
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — A few overeager AT&T employees brought demo phones to “American Idol” viewing parties in Arkansas and helped fans text their votes, but their actions did not affect the outcome between native son Kris Allen and Adam Lambert, the company said Wednesday. Allen, 23, of Conway, Ark., won by an undisclosed margin over Lambert, 27, of San Diego, a powerful singer who’d been cast by the show’s judges as the front-runner. Host Ryan Seacrest

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

said nearly 100 million votes were sent by phone or text message after last Tuesday’s final performance, but did not mention how those votes were divided.

While anyone in the United States could phone in votes, only AT&T customers were allowed to text.

About 20 phones were brought to two separate parties in Arkansas, and two of those phones were capable of sending multiple votes by so-called “power texting,” a person familiar with the gatherings said. A second person, with knowledge of the

voting results, said Allen won by a large enough margin that a handful of voters could not have swayed the outcome.

Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on the voting process or the Arkansas parties.

“Idol” prohibits “power voting” by text or phone, and has internal safeguards against the practice.

In a joint statement, Fox and

FremantleMedia said the results were “fair, accurate and verified” by an independent, third-party monitor to protect the integrity of the voting process. “In no way did any individuals unfairly influence the outcome of the competition.”

“Kris Allen is, without a doubt, the American Idol,” Fox and FremantleMedia said.

According to AT&T, “a few local AT&T employees” were

invited to attend local viewing parties in Arkansas for the “American Idol” finale, parties the company said were similar to other, “countless” ones held in “homes, bars and other public places” nationwide.

“Caught up in the enthusiasm of rooting for their hometown contestant, they brought a small number of demo phones with them and provided texting tutorials to those who were interested,” AT&T said

Report: Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman B'way bound

By **MICHAEL KUCHWARA**,
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK — Together again for the first time — Hugh Jackman and Daniel Craig — on stage. Nothing has been officially confirmed but two of Hollywood’s reigning hunks may be paired next fall on Broadway in “A Steady Rain,” a two-character drama by Keith Huff.

The New York Post reported Wednesday the actors were set to star in the play about two Chicago policemen, friends since childhood, whose lives take divergent paths after an unnerving incident.

“A Steady Rain” was a big hit in Chicago in September 2007 at a small theater and transferred the following year to another venue for a commercial run. The Chicago Tribune called the play an “exceptionally rich, gritty and

emotional drama ... it will get you right where you live,” while the Chicago Sun-Times cheered its “action-packed storytelling.”

Huff, who has a master’s from the University of Iowa’s Playwright’s Workshop, has extensive regional theater credits. “A Steady Rain” would be his Broadway debut. A telephone call to his agent, John Buzzetti, seeking confirmation of the production, was not returned.

“A Steady Rain” would also be the New York stage debut for Craig, who skyrocketed to film stardom as the latest cinematic James Bond. Jackman, the movies’ Wolverine from all the “X-Men” movies, proved to be a major Broadway box-office draw five years ago, playing entertainer Peter Allen in the musical “The Boy from Oz.”



FILE - In this Jan. 12, 2009 file photo, actor Daniel Craig attends a Cinema Society screening of ‘Defiance’ in New York.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, file)

The Post said “A Steady Rain” would be produced by Barbara Broccoli, whose father was Albert “Cubby” Broccoli, who began the enormously lucrative James Bond film franchise. In a video posted in January on YouTube, Huff talked about casting “A Steady Rain” with famous actors. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Slumping Treasury bond prices send stocks lower

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The stock market put its rally back on hold as investors worried about rising borrowing costs. The Dow Jones industrial average fell almost 175 points Wednesday, erasing most of the previous day's rally as a jump in government bond yields fanned concerns that higher interest rates will sap strength from the economy.

A steep drop in the price of the benchmark 10-year Treasury note pushed its yield up to 3.75 percent from 3.55 percent late Tuesday and to the highest level since November. Bond investors were selling on concerns that the huge amount of debt the government is selling to fund its bailout programs will ultimately keep Treasury prices down.

Along with increasing borrowing costs for the

government, rising yields on Treasury debt could hamper an economic recovery since they are used as benchmarks for home mortgages and other kinds of loans. Higher mortgage rates could delay a recovery in the battered housing market.

"The equity market is getting worried about the 'green shoots.' I think the deer have nipped off a few and I think a few turned out to be weeds,"

GM all but certain to file for Chapter 11



A man with boxes of documents related to the Chrysler bankruptcy case waits in line to enter Bankruptcy Court in New York, Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

By TOM KRISHER and JOHN PORRETTO,
AP Business Writers

DETROIT — General Motors, the company that put tail fins on a Cadillac and was once the nation's largest employer, moved to the edge of bankruptcy Wednesday as debtholders refused a last-ditch deal. Crosstown rival Chrysler hoped to pull off a quick exit from Chapter 11 and prove there is hope yet for a leaner Detroit.

Investors who are owed billions of dollars by GM rebelled against a plan to accept a sliver stake in the company in exchange for their bonds, one of the government-imposed conditions for restructuring out of court.

A bankruptcy filing could come within days — perhaps

around Monday, which had been the government deadline for GM to reorganize.

Meanwhile, Chrysler was in a marathon session in federal court in New York, trying to persuade a judge to sign off on its plan to sell most of its assets to Italian automaker Fiat.

Since Chrysler entered bankruptcy protection four weeks ago, its sales have fallen but not tanked, raising hopes that both automakers might be able to shed debts and modify contracts under court protection and emerge leaner, stronger and more competitive.

The U.S. government has pledged to back both companies' warranties to reassure consumers their purchases will be protected no

matter what happens. Analysts say that seems to be helping Chrysler, where sales during the first two weeks of May fell at about the same rate as the whole U.S. market.

At the Jack Maxton Chevrolet dealership in the Columbus, Ohio, suburb of Worthington, it appeared to be business as usual Wednesday even as GM contemplated bankruptcy.

One salesman took a family on a test drive, a man put on his glasses to take a closer look at the sticker for a new Camaro, a car was being cleaned by the service department's automatic car wash and the receptionist was busy routing phone calls.

Owner Jeff Mauk said President Barack Obama's pledge to back warranties seems to have erased some of the fear for potential buyers. As for a potential bankruptcy filing, Mauk's sentiment is the sooner the better.

"If they are going to do it," he said, "let's do it and get through it."

Dana Johnson, chief economist at Comerica Inc., the financial services company, said Americans are more accustomed to the bankruptcy process than many people think.

"Banks fail and reopen under new names and that doesn't seem to be much of a problem," Johnson said. □



Traders work in oil options pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange, Wednesday, May 27, 2009. Oil prices rose to six-month highs Wednesday on optimism that the U.S. is emerging from a severe recession, but expectations that OPEC will not cut production at its meeting in Vienna this week dampened gains.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

said Hank Herrmann, chief executive of Waddell & Reed. Herrmann was referring to early positive signs in the economy that Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has called "green shoots."

While Wall Street has been rallying for most of the past three months on those early signs of recovery, it has also been vulnerable to unexpected turns such as the jump in Treasury yields.

"Stocks are following bonds," said John Brady, senior vice president of global interest rate products at MF Global. "Will the economy grow and expand vigorously in the face of sustained higher interest rates?"

The Dow lost ground for the fifth time in six days, falling 173.47, or 2.1 percent, to 8,300.02 after rising 196 points on Tuesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 17.27, or 1.9 percent, to 893.06, and the technology-laden Nasdaq composite index fell 19.35, or 1.1 percent, to 1,731.08.

On Tuesday, stocks soared after an upbeat reading on consumer confidence lifted hopes for an economic rebound later this year.

The Dow is still 26.8 percent above the lows it reached in early March, but 41.4 percent

below the record high it hit in October 2007.

The drop in bond prices Wednesday followed a well-received auction of \$35 billion in five-year notes and a day ahead of an auction of \$26 billion in 7-year notes. All told, the government plans to turn out \$101 billion in debt this week.

Some traders fear demand for Treasuries could weaken as the government issues massive amounts of debt to fund its financial and economic rescue programs. The Federal Reserve has said it would buy up to \$300 billion in Treasury debt this year as part of its efforts to keep borrowing costs low. But investors are now concerned that the central bank isn't buying as much as some had hoped.

Wednesday's stock market retreat also came as General Motors Corp. said not enough bondholders agreed to swap their debt for company stock, meaning the automaker is almost certainly headed for bankruptcy protection. GM has until Monday to either finish restructuring outside of court or file for Chapter 11. Value in its stock would be wiped out.

GM slid 29 cents, or 20.1 percent, to \$1.15.

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Cheers For Cheney

L. Brent Bozell

Creators Syndicate – Dick Cheney clearly drives the liberal media nuts. As much as they'd like to bask in the glow of the new and glorious Obama Era, they simply cannot achieve that requisite state of nirvana with Cheney around. They spent eight long years packaging Cheney as some evil and deadly combination of Darth Vader and the Ebola virus. Now they can add to the descriptors a new title: Count Dracula. The man refuses to die. That's why every speech he makes draws a ferocious chorus of media boos of outrage at the idea he would dare to think he has freedom to speak in the first place. CNN's Anderson Cooper was so flustered over Cheney's latest speech at the American Enterprise Institute that he asked Cheney's daughter Elizabeth: "If a Democrat was doing this in a Republican administration, wouldn't be the Republicans be saying, this is traitorous?"

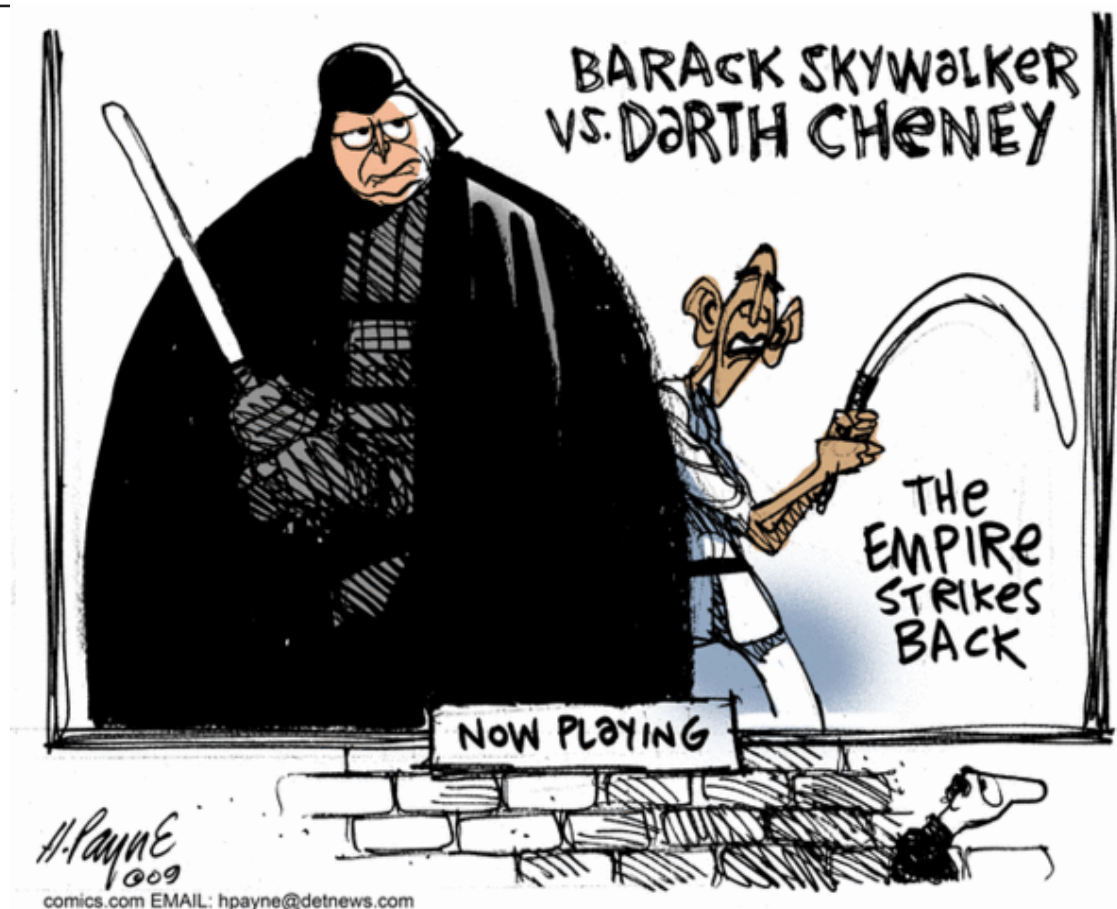
This is just too rich.

When President Bush was in power, he was regularly assaulted with rhetorical flame-throwers. He was a mad bomber, a dictator, a grand ayatollah, a world-class dolt, even a "smirking chimp." He was Gomer Pyle, all Three Stooges and Dan Quayle Redux. His tactics were comparable to the KGB, the Nazis and the Khmer Rouge. And his critics were painted as the essence of patriotic dissent.

But when Cheney protests the Obama administration weakening the war on terror to the point it won't even call it terror (just a "man-caused disaster"), bam! He's Benedict Arnold.

Cindy Sheehan insisted Bush killed her son in Iraq and literally suggested Team Bush was traitorous: "George and his indecent bandits traitorously had intelligence fabricated to fit their goal of invading Iraq." Everywhere she went, the media laid out the red carpet. But when Cheney defends himself, it is "traitorous"?

Cheney was blunt about waterboarding. "To call this a program of torture is to libel the dedicated professionals who have saved American lives, and to cast terrorists and murderers as innocent victims." Cooper savaged Cheney's daughter with Evil Empire analogies on harsh interrogation techniques. "These are techniques which have been around. I mean, the Nazis used them. The Khmer Rouge used them. The North Koreans used them." Does Cooper really believe that America is just like those mass-murdering dictatorships? We waterboarded the architect of 9/11, but Cooper's addled outrage implies that the man with the water pitcher is as evil as the man with the wet face who sent more than 3,000 American men, women and children to their deaths. □



Not all "Compelling Personal Stories" are Equal

Michelle Malkin

Creators Syndicate – Since when did securing a Supreme Court seat become a high hurdles contest? The White House and Democrats have turned Second Circuit Judge Sonia Sotomayor's nomination into a personal Olympic event. Pay no attention to her jurisprudence. She grew up in a Bronx public housing project. She was diagnosed with childhood diabetes at 8. Her father died a year later.

And, oh, by the way, did you hear that she was poor?

It's a "compelling personal story," as we heard 20,956 times on Tuesday. Sotomayor's a "real" person. Why, she even read Nancy Drew as a young girl, President Obama told us. She's "faced down barriers, overcome the odds and lived out the American dream that brought her parents here so long ago," Obama said.

If Sotomayor were auditioning to be Oprah Winfrey's fill-in host, I'd understand the over-the-top hyping of her life narrative. But isn't anybody on Sotomayor's side the least bit embarrassed by all this liberal condescension? Republicans are not allowed to mention Sotomayor's ethnicity lest they be branded bigots, but every Democrat on cable television harped on her multicultural "diversity" and "obstacle"-climbing. Obama made sure to roll his r's when noting that her parents came from Puerrrrto Rrrrico. New York Sen. Charles Schumer stated outright: "It's long overdue that a Latino sit on the United States Supreme Court." Color-coded tokenism dominated the headlines, with blaring references to Sotomayor as the high court's potential "first Hispanic." Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill — one of the leading Democrats tasked with guiding Sotomayor through the nomination process — carried the "compelling personal story" talking points to the tokenist extreme in an interview on Fox News:

"If you look at what this woman has been through, and the obstacles that she has had

to overcome, I think she does have a richly, uniquely American experience that makes her incredibly qualified to pass judgment on some of the most important cases in our country," McCaskill asserted. "Overcoming incredible odds, and I think that is an experience that is new to the courts. There have been a lot of privileged people that have landed on the Supreme Court. The fact that she has lived the life of the common American, trying to grow up in public housing, reaching for scholarships, reaching for the courtroom as a courtroom prosecutor, all of those things will make her a better and wiser judge. And I don't think that is identity politics. I think that is the American experience."

Clever. Challenging Sotomayor's credentials and extreme views on race and the law is not merely anti-Hispanic. It's anti-American!

More significantly, McCaskill waved the high-hurdle card after being asked to defend Sotomayor's infamous statement at a 2001 University of California at Berkeley speech asserting brown-skin moral authority: "I would hope that a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn't lived that life." McCaskill actually denied that Sotomayor had made the remarks, then argued the words were taken out of context.

You want context? It's even worse than that sound bite. As National Journal legal analyst Stuart Taylor reported, "Sotomayor also referred to the cardinal duty of judges to be impartial as a mere 'aspiration because it denies the fact that we are by our experiences making different choices than others.' And she suggested that 'inherent physiological or cultural differences' may help explain why 'our gender and national origins may and will make a difference in our judging.'" The full speech was reprinted in something called the Berkeley La Raza Law Journal. □

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ORANJESTAD - Why should seafood enthusiast and other diners alike go to Driftwood Restaurant? Well let's start by mentioning that their fish is caught daily by the owner himself and prepared by a local chef. "Just like mama makes it." The food is fresh, the staff is friendly, and the place is definitely buzzing. If you want to catch your own fresh fish and can't stay for a sit-down dinner, enjoy their Charter Fishing trip and have them prepare it for you. Trust me; it doesn't get any fresher than this: From pier to plate as their motto says.



Fried fish would be the common choice, but you can get your entrée broiled, grilled or baked. However you can indulge in the more guilty options for lobster, Alaskan king crab legs, grouper, shrimp, Black Angus tenderloin and so forth. Ease your

conscience and add a salad or go all out and try their delicious crab cakes, fish soup, garlic escargots, lobster crepe and coconut shrimps before your hearty entrée.



While seafood stars at Driftwood, fish-phobic diners will not go hungry. They have a staggeringly vast menu, which doesn't miss much of anything, from authentic Aruban seafood, lobster, Alaskan king crab legs to chicken, lamb or steaks.

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The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax.

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New coral reef found off coast of Ireland

GALWAY, Ireland, May 26 (UPI) -- Irish scientists say they have discovered a major coral reef off Ireland's west coast covering approximately 77 square miles in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Researchers from the National University of Ireland and the French Institute of Research for the Exploitation of the Sea, led by NUI marine ecologist Anthony Grehan, said the reef includes about 40 carbonate mounts, some rising as high as 328 feet above the sea floor.

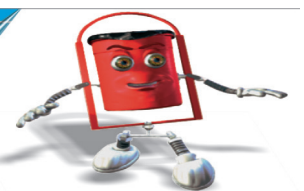
"These are by far the most pristine, thriving and hence spectacular examples of cold-water coral reefs that I've encountered in almost 10 years of study in Irish waters," said Grehan. "There is also evidence of recent recruitment of corals and many other reef animals in the area suggesting this area is an important source of larvae supply to other areas ..."

The study is part of a pan-European project funded by the European Commission to study interactions among corals, fish and fisheries.

Grehan said vulnerable marine ecosystems such as coral reefs represent one of the last untapped reservoirs of potentially useful bio-compounds that might support the development of new anti-viral or anti-bacterial pharmaceuticals. □



Divers swim past a sand covered reef in Bonaire, in the Netherlands Antilles, on October 22, 2008. Hurricane Omar slammed into the lower Caribbean the week before, depositing sand all over the reef and causing major damage. (UPI Photo/Roger L. Wollenberg)





FILE - In this May 6, 2009, file photo, National Security Adviser James Jones speaks at a briefing in the Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

White House referees battle among U.S. spy agencies

PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A turf war between the two senior intelligence chiefs over the role of CIA station chiefs in U.S. embassies has forced national security adviser James L. Jones to step in to mediate, according to current and former U.S. government officials.

The jockeying between CIA director Leon Panetta and National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair centers on Blair's effort to choose

his own representatives abroad instead of relying only on CIA station chiefs, the current and former officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the dispute. The national intelligence director, a position created after the 2001 terror attacks on the United States, oversees and coordinates activities of the CIA and the 15 other civilian spy agencies and is the president's chief intelligence adviser.

Continued on Page B3



President Barack Obama announces federal appeals court judge Sonia Sotomayor, right, as his nominee for the Supreme Court, Tuesday, May 26, 2009, in an East Room ceremony at the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

No delays in hearings but Sotomayor battle looms

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans will avoid parliamentary delays against Sonia Sotomayor's Supreme Court nomination, a party leader conceded Wednesday, all but admitting there is little chance of blocking her confirmation as the first Hispanic justice.

At the same time, senators and advocacy groups still are preparing for the coming battle over the Senate's required confirmation, partly with an eye toward raising money and perhaps preparing for President Barack Obama's next nominee.

Continued on Page B4

APNewsBreak: Employee shot at U.S. casino dies



FILE - This Jan. 30, 2009 file photo shows the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. An employee was shot Wednesday May 27, 2009 inside the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort and died soon afterward, and a suspect was in custody, the casino's CEO said.

Associated Press

Read more on Page 5



Pakistani rescue worker struggle to recover an injured victim from the rubble at the site of suicide car bombing in Lahore, Pakistan on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. Gunmen detonated a car bomb near police and intelligence agency offices in Lahore on Wednesday, killing about 30 people and wounding more than 100 in one of Pakistan's deadliest attacks this year, officials said.

Associated Press

Suicide squad kills 30, wounds 250 in Pakistan

BABAR DOGAR

Associated Press Writer

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide squad using guns, grenades and a van packed with explosives targeted police and Pakistan's intelligence agency Wednesday, killing 30 and wounding 250 in an assault seen as revenge for the month-old army campaign against the Taliban in the Swat Valley.

Continued on Page B6

President Obama promotes clean energy, stimulus plan



President Barack Obama delivers a speech in front of solar panels at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press Writer
LAS VEGAS (AP) — President Barack Obama

hailed renewable energy as economical, efficient and a job-creator as he marked the first 100 days of his economic stimulus plan. In a Western trip devoted mainly to raising political money, Obamasaid Wednesday

Associated Press

that the \$787 billion stimulus is paying dividends across the United States.

He also announced more spending for renewable energy after touring a large field of solar panels at Nellis Air Force Base, near Las Vegas. The sun-powered cells provide a quarter of the base's power needs and will save the Air Force nearly \$1 million a year, Obama said, speaking in a large hangar warmed by the desert heat.

The \$100 million public-private solar power system covers 140 acres (55 hectares) and generates more than 14 megawatts of electricity.

Obama's aides had mocked reporters for making a fuss over his first 100 days in office — a common milestone for U.S. presidents — but Obama was eager to assess the first 100 days of the stimulus package. It has "saved or created nearly 150,000 jobs," he said, including "jobs building solar panels and wind turbines;

making homes and buildings more energy-efficient."

The White House job claims are difficult to verify because they are based on estimates of how bad the economy might have been without the stimulus rather than actual employment data. The country has lost 1.3 million jobs since February, a figure the Obama administration says would have been far higher if not for the recovery effort.

Obama said more than \$467 million in stimulus money will be used "to expand and accelerate the development, deployment and use of geothermal and solar energy throughout the United States." The president sandwiched the midday event between two political fundraisers: one on Tuesday night in Las Vegas for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a fellow Democrat, and one set for Wednesday night in Los Angeles for the Democratic National Committee. □



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WWII-era ship becomes sunken reef off Key West

KEY WEST, Florida (AP) — A 13-year project to create a new artificial reef off the Florida Keys for sport diving and fishing culminated Wednesday with the scuttling of a massive World War II ship last used by the military to track missiles and spacecraft.

It took just under two minutes to sink the 523-foot-long Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg after demolition experts triggered a series of explosives that lined both sides of the ship's bilge area below the waterline.

Key West City Manager and Vandenberg project administrator Jim Scholl confirmed the ship settled on the bottom of the Florida Keys National Marine

Sanctuary in an upright position, as planned.

A dive team verified that all charges exploded, Scholl said, but said they were continuing assessments to verify the wreck's structural integrity before opening it up to the public for diving.

"This is good business and at the same time we're taking pressure off our natural coral reefs," said Joe Weatherby. He organized Artificial Reefs of the Keys in 1996 and chose the Vandenberg from about 400 decommissioned military ships rusting away across the country.

Weatherby said it should not take long for the Vandenberg to attract fish.

"The marine life grows on the wreck and the little fish

come and the big fish eat the little fish and just like that," he said.

The ship is now the second largest vessel in the world ever purposely sunk to become an artificial reef — the largest, the USS Oriskany, was sunk off Florida's Pensacola Beach in 2006.

The Vandenberg's sinking also completes the Florida Keys Shipwreck Trail, a series of intentionally sunk vessels that begins off Key Largo with a former Navy landing ship dock, the Spiegel Grove, and ends with the Vandenberg.

Ridding the vessel of contaminants consumed 70 percent of the \$8.6 million project's funding resources and some 75,000 hours of

and managing relationships with foreign intelligence and security services, and coordinating, and sometimes constraining, the work of other U.S. intelligence agencies and military forces in their assigned country.

In some countries the United States has few if any spies on the ground and relies instead on electronic eavesdropping to collect intelligence. A former senior intelligence official said that in those cases, Blair might want to have the senior National Security Agency officer at the embassy serve as his personal representative.

The CIA derailed a similar effort last year by the national

intelligence director's office, then headed by former Adm. Mike McConnell.

Blair's directive was described by some government officials as an attempt to shore up both the office's authority and ability to oversee foreign operations, which has so far been stronger on paper than in practice.

Blair told the Senate Intelligence Committee at his confirmation hearing in January that he intended to exercise fully the authorities of the DNI's office. He also said if the authorities proved inadequate, he would ask Congress and the president to strengthen them. □

SPY AGENCIES

Continued from Page B1

Former and current CIA officials have warned that Blair's plan could create competing chains of command inside U.S. embassies that could potentially foul up intelligence operations, complicate the delicate relationships between U.S. and foreign intelligence services and confuse ambassadors over whom to rely on for intelligence advice.

CIA station chiefs posted in embassies have handled the national intelligence role abroad since 2005, but Blair wants the option of designating other intelligence specialists for the job. Blair's move has prompted strong objections from Panetta and has been referred to Jones to settle.

Blair's plan is contained in a classified May 19 intelligence community directive, a policy document periodically issued by his office to the 16 agencies under his direction.

From the DNI's perspective, the proposal would allow Blair to tap the most relevant intelligence officer in an embassy or foreign country to serve as his eyes and ears.

In most cases that would be the CIA station chief. The station chief system has existed for 50 years, allowing the CIA to call the shots on pursuing



In this photo released by the Florida Keys News Bureau, the former U.S. Air Force missile-tracking ship Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg disappears beneath the surface of the ocean after cutting charges were detonated Wednesday, May 27, 2009, seven miles off Key West, Fla. The 523-foot-long Vandenberg, that played a key role in the Cold War and tracked NASA spacecraft launches in the 1960's, 70's and early 80's, was scuttled to create an artificial reef to attract recreational divers and anglers. It sank in less than two minutes.

Associated Press

labor.

The Vandenberg began as the Gen. Harry Taylor and was later commissioned by the Army as a transport vessel, ferrying troops and supplies from San Francisco to island bases in the western Pacific Ocean in 1944.

In 1945, it carried troops home from Europe near the end of World War II. It was later used by the Navy as a transport ship, and was transferred to the Air Force in 1961, when it was renamed the Vandenberg.

For about 20 more years, the ship served as a missile tracker throughout the height

of the Cold War and was retired in 1983.

Several of the ship's veterans witnessed the scuttling.

"I can't believe it could sink that fast," said Charles Patrick Sherlock, 64, a Florida resident who worked as a telemetry technician on the ship in the late 1970s. "It's kind of scary to think about, actually, we used to live on that ship, and see how quick it went under."

"I am planning to come back in a few weeks with a group of guys (fellow Vandenberg veterans) who could not be here today, so we can all dive it," he said. □

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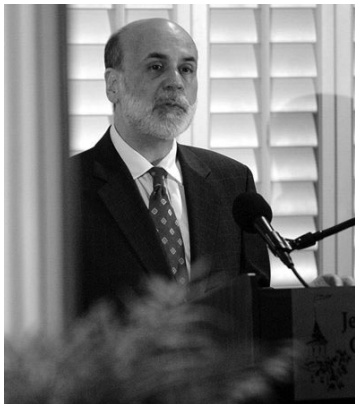
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President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden listen to his Supreme Court choice Sonia Sotomayor, Tuesday, May 26, 2009, during the announcement in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, speaks to a meeting of the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank on Jekyll Island, Ga., Monday, May 11, 2009.

Associated Press

By JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—The Obama

Fed would serve as risk regulator under Obama plan

administration is proposing that the Federal Reserve serve as an all-seeing regulator to detect activities that could pose risks that undermine the entire financial system.

The administration also is recommending two new agencies to protect consumers and investors.

The proposals are part of six regulatory overhaul recommendations that the administration is circulating among key lawmakers. Persons familiar with the

NO FILIBUSTER

Continued from Page B1

Sen. Jeff Sessions, top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he did not foresee a filibuster, a delaying tactic that essentially would be the only tactic his party could try that might stop Sotomayor since Democrats hold a solid majority of Senate votes. Still, he made clear that Republicans were ready to raise pointed questions about whether she would let her personal life color her legal opinions and whether that is appropriate for a Supreme

plan say details still need to be hammered out. No announcement is expected from the administration until the week of June 8 at the earliest.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and other administration officials have discussed the regulatory proposals in the past. But the plan circulating on Capitol Hill indicated that the ideas are beginning to come together into a formal package for Congress to consider. □

Court justice.

“We have an absolute constitutional duty to make sure that any nominee, no matter what their background and what kind of life story they have, that we examine that so the American people can know that the person we give a lifetime appointment to ... will be faithful to the law and not allow their personal views to influence decision-making,” Sessions said in an interview on NBC television.

Organizations that have been preparing for a major confirmation battle, and that depend on such fights to raise money, motivate supporters and galvanize enthusiasm for their agendas, made clear that they do not intend to sit out the debate, filibuster or not. The debate over Sotomayor also could lay groundwork for fights over later high court nominations the president might make.

Conservative groups kicked off a broad effort to convince the public that Sotomayor, now a federal appeals judge, is an activist who would impose personal views and ethnic and gender biases on her interpretation of the law and the U.S. Constitution.

“Equal justice under law — or

under attack?” a Web ad by the Judicial Confirmation Network asks. “America deserves better” than Sotomayor, it concludes. The White House and liberal groups are hitting back with their own campaign to introduce Sotomayor to the public as an experienced and fair judge whose background gives her a better understanding of how the court affects real people and their lives.

“Principled. Fair-minded. Independent,” asserts a TV spot to be aired by the Center for Constitutional Values.

The dueling messages sketched the battle lines for what promise to be closely watched Senate hearings on Sotomayor’s nomination, with heavy political consequences for both parties.

Democrats, signaling that they hope to score political points against Republicans in the debate over Sotomayor’s nomination, e-mailed contributors telling them the minority party was “ready to obstruct.”

Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, head of the party’s Senate campaign committee, wrote that “we have a fight on our hands.”

The judge’s Capitol Hill debut could come as early as next week, when top aides said she could begin making personal “courtesy calls” on Senate leaders and members of the Judiciary Committee.

For now, many of the senators who hold the judge’s fate in their hands are scattered in home states across the country or destinations around the world during their weeklong congressional break. There is little public partisan debate about Sotomayor’s nomination.

In private, the 54-year-old Sotomayor — a veteran of the federal bench who was reared in a New York City housing project and attended Princeton and Yale universities en route to the highest echelons of the legal profession — phoned crucial senators as she began preparing to face them in high-stakes hearings.

Since Obama announced Sotomayor’s nomination Tuesday, she has spoken with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and his Republican counterpart, Mitch McConnell, as well as Democratic Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, the Judiciary chairman, and Sessions. □

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APNewsBreak: Employee shot at U.S casino dies

WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — An employee was shot Wednesday inside the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort and died soon afterward, and a suspect was in custody, the casino's CEO said.

Ray Kot was a shift manager who had been with the casino since the day it opened in 1990.

"He was the loveliest human being you ever want to meet," said Mark Juliano, CEO of Trump Entertainment

Resorts, which runs the casino. "He didn't have an enemy in the world." Juliano said there did not appear to be a dispute between Kot and the shooter, whose identity wasn't immediately disclosed.

Kot was shot three to four times in a nonpublic office just off the casino floor, Juliano said. He was taken to a medical center, where he died several hours later following surgery.

The shooter was not a casino employee, Juliano said. The casino shut its table

games down Wednesday evening and sent home workers assigned there. Police said they recovered the gun used in the shooting after arresting the suspect in a parking garage.

It was the second incident involving a gunshot at the casino this year.

On Jan. 30, a suspect in a New York embezzlement case pulled a gun and threatened to kill himself in an office there, sparking an 11-hour standoff that included his accidentally firing a shot before he surrendered.



New Jersey State Police investigators and members of the NJ State Police crime scene unit stand outside the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, in Atlantic City, NJ, Wednesday, May 27, 2009. An employee was shot Wednesday afternoon inside the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort and died soon afterward, and a regular patron who knew him was in custody, state police and the casino's CEO said.

Associated Press

Episcopal Church ousts 61 clergy in bishop dispute

GARANCE BURKE

Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, California (AP) — National leaders of the Episcopal Church have ousted 61 clergy who aligned with a former bishop in California when he broke with the national church in a dispute over the Bible and homosexuality.

Former Bishop John-David Schofield led the Diocese of San Joaquin to become the first full diocese to secede from the U.S. denomination in 2007. Four years earlier, Episcopalians consecrated their first openly gay bishop, setting off a wide-ranging debate within the church and upsetting conservative congregations.

Schofield ultimately was removed as head of the diocese and barred from performing any religious rites. He maintains he is an Anglican bishop under the worldwide church.

Episcopal leaders said Wednesday they were deposing all clergy who severed their ties and joined Schofield in affiliating with an Anglican archdiocese in Argentina.

Jerry Lamb, the new Episcopal Bishop of San Joaquin, called the decision to oust the clergy "heartbreaking."

"But, the fact is, they chose to abandon their relationship with the Episcopal Church," he said.

Schofield said in a statement Wednesday that Anglican leaders across the globe recognized the deposed clergy as priests and deacons in good standing.

"Clearly, the traditional understanding of what it means to be a member of this historic Communion has been tragically altered by this action," he said. "The Episcopal Church needlessly isolates itself from their brothers and sisters around the world." In December, the breakaway diocese joined with three others and dozens of individual parishes in the U.S. and Canada to announce that they were forming a North



The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, the U.S. Episcopal Church's first openly gay bishop, center, greets attendees of the event, Clergy Call, where he spoke about the gay-rights movement, in Washington, on Monday, May 4, 2009.

Associated Press

American Anglican province to rival the Episcopal Church. Schofield said Wednesday that 23 dioceses now plan to affiliate with the new province.

Its future status in the worldwide

Anglican Communion is unclear. It's unprecedented for an Anglican national province to be created where a national church already exists. □

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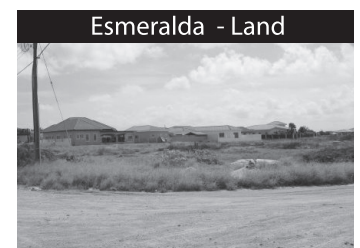
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Continued from Page B1

The midmorning blast on a crowded street damaged an area nearly as big as a city block, mangling cars, spraying bricks in all directions and leaving behind a swimming pool-size crater. Most of the dead and injured were civilians.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik said militants were striking out because they were losing the fight with government forces battling to uproot extremists in the valley and the tribal areas in the northwest near Afghanistan.

"I believe that anti-Pakistan elements, who want to destabilize our country and see defeat in Swat, have now

turned to our cities," Malik told reporters.

A group calling itself Tehrik-i-Taliban Punjab claimed responsibility for the bombing in a Turkish-language communique posted on Turkish jihadist Web sites Wednesday, saying it was related to the fight in Swat, according to SITE Intelligence Group. The claim could not be verified and the group's relationship to the Taliban was unclear.

Washington and other Western allies back the Swat campaign and are watching closely, seeing it as a test of the government's resolve to combat the spread of extremism in Pakistan.

The attack in Lahore, Pakistan's second-largest city, was far



from the restive Afghan border region where the Taliban have established strongholds from which officials say they have launched attacks on Western forces in Afghanistan.

It was the third deadly assault since March in Lahore, the intellectual and cultural heart of the Punjab, the country's most populous province. Before March, it had largely escaped the violence that has plagued many parts of the country, but officials now fear militants may be choosing targets there to make the point that nowhere is beyond their reach. Officials said three suspects had been detained. Police and government officials described a coordinated assault on a compound that housed several government buildings, including a Punjab provincial government office, a police emergency call center and buildings housing the Inter-Services Intelligence agency, or ISI.

A white van pulled up in a narrow street separating the police and ISI buildings, police officer Sohail Sakheera told The Associated Press. Two gunmen stepped out from either side of the van, took cover behind concrete barriers protecting the buildings and opened fire, one on the ISI building, the other at the police building. A grenade was lobbed at the ISI building, he said.

A driver remained in the van. Security guards returned fire and the fighting lasted several minutes, until one of the attackers was hit by ISI sharpshooters. Then a huge

explosion erupted as the bomb was detonated.

"The moment the blast happened, everything went dark in front of my eyes," witness Muhammad Ali said. The police building collapsed, crushing some officers and trapping others. Walls were sheared off the ISI building. A crater several yards in diameter and several feet deep marked the exact spot of the blast, which provincial government official Sajjad Bhutta said was caused by 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of explosive.

The ceilings of several operating rooms in a nearby hospital fell in, injuring 20 people.

Raja Riaz, a senior provincial government minister, told reporters about 30 people were killed and at least 250 wounded. Fifteen police and several intelligence agents were among the dead, officials said. The remainder of the dead and the bulk of the wounded were civilians caught in the blast or hit by shrapnel.

The police building appeared to catch the brunt of the explosion, but one expert said the ISI headquarters was likely the main target. The complex is the main operations center for the ISI in Punjab.

The building also served as an ISI interrogation center, where operatives including Ahmed Omar Saeed Shaikh, who was later convicted in the murder of U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002, were held for a time, agency officials told the AP on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized

to talk to the media.

U.S. officials and others in the past have accused the ISI of having links to militant groups, including the Taliban in Afghanistan. But the secretive agency has also been responsible for capturing and interrogating senior al-Qaida figures and collecting intelligence that helps the military's campaign against militants in the border region. Mohammad Amir Rana, an expert on Pakistani militant groups with the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies, said the ISI office would have been viewed as significant by the terrorists because it is the provincial headquarters for the agency.

"The message is very strong and that is that whoever is involved or have role in the ongoing military operation in Swat, they would be targeted," he said. The army says at least 1,100 militants have been killed in a month of fighting in Swat, and that the Taliban is in retreat. The military on Wednesday said troops had cleared militants out of Piochar, a village in a remote part of Swat that is the rear base for Taliban leader Maulana Fazlullah, and predicted that Mingora, the largest town in the valley, would be cleared of militants within three days.

The army on Wednesday invited refugees from the fighting to return to two villages, the first to be declared safe enough. More than 2 million refugees have fled, an exodus that aid officials warn could turn into a humanitarian disaster. □

Canada close to sign nuclear deal with India

TORONTO (AP) — Canada is poised to sign a deal with India to sell nuclear technology and materials to the energy-starved South Asian nation, Canada's international trade minister said Wednesday.

The pact will open up the lucrative Indian market to Canadian nuclear exports for the first time in more than three decades. "We're very close to having an agreement with India related to the civilian use of nuclear energy for the purpose of helping them meet their energy needs," said Trade Minister Stockwell Day, who would not say exactly when the deal will be signed.

A senior Indian diplomat told the Press Trust of India on Wednesday that negotiators are on the verge of finalizing the pact.

Shashishekhar M. Gavai, India's high commissioner to Canada, told the news agency that Canadian and Indian officials have exchanged the draft agreement.

Gavai could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

In January, Day announced that government-owned Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. had signed a memorandum of understanding with India for next-generation nuclear reactors.

It was a turning point for Canada, which stopped nuclear co-operation with India in 1974 after its government used plutonium from a Canadian reactor to build an atomic bomb. The international community lifted a three-decade ban on nuclear trade with India last September even though India still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Some anti-nuclear activists worry India will stockpile domestic uranium for military weapons and use uranium imports for civilian purposes.

Canadian negotiators insisted India allow nuclear inspectors into civilian facilities, Day said. Under the deal Canadian nuclear exports cannot be used for military purposes, added Day. Now that the moratorium has ended, countries are lining up to sell nuclear technology to India, which wants to build 25 to 30 new reactors in the coming years.

"The estimation is over the next 20 years, something like anywhere from CA\$50 (\$44) to CA\$150 billion (\$133 billion) worth of civil nuclear energy needs are what we're looking at," Day said.

On Tuesday, a senior executive from AECL told Canada's finance committee the corporation is eyeing foreign markets for its next-generation ACR 1000 reactors. □



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Cyclone Aila toll up to 191 in India, Bangladesh

MANIK BANERJEE
Associated Press Writer

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — Heavy rains caused deadly mudslides and slowed rescue efforts Wednesday after Cyclone Aila pounded eastern India and Bangladesh, killing at least 191 people.

The cyclone destroyed thousands of homes and stranded millions of people in flooded villages before it began to ease Tuesday. The death toll will likely rise in both countries as rescue workers reach cut-off areas. Mudslides in India's famed Darjeeling tea district killed at least 22 people overnight, said Asim Dasgupta, the finance minister of the worst-affected West Bengal state in India. The official death toll in India stood at 78 by Wednesday, Dasgupta told reporters, adding about 2.3 million people were affected or stranded in flooded villages.

Bangladesh's Food and Disaster Management Ministry said the toll there was 113 after more bodies were found. Most victims drowned or were washed away when storm surges hit coastal areas. Soldiers have been deployed to take food, water and medicine to hundreds of thousands of people stranded in flooded

villages, Bangladesh Minister Abdur Razzak told reporters Wednesday. In India rescuers evacuated more than 41,000 people by Wednesday, Dasgupta said. At least 500,000 villagers were affected or stranded, mostly by flash floods caused by tidal surges, said Ziaul Alam, the local administrator in Bangladesh's Khulna district. The cyclone also caused damage in the Sundarbans, a tangle of mangrove forests that is home to one of the world's largest tiger populations. Conservationists expressed concern over the tigers' fate. At least one tiger from the flooded reserve took refuge in a house. Forest guards tranquilized it and were planning to release it once the waters subside, said Belinda Wright of the Wildlife Protection Society of India, which assisted in the operation.

It is believed about 250 tigers live on the Indian side of the Sundarbans and another 250 live on the Bangladeshi side. Conservationists in India said water levels were too high for ecologists and forest officials to enter the area and assess the extent of the damage. N.C. Bahuguna, a senior Indian conservation official,



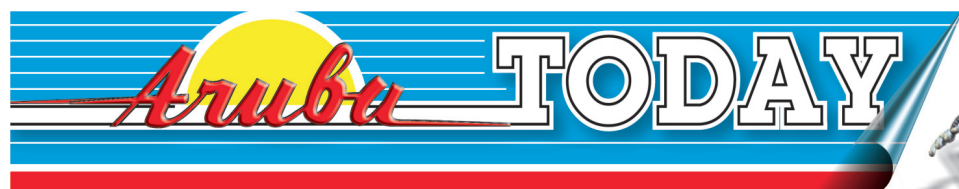
Villagers inspect their mud houses destroyed by Cyclone Aila in Birbhum district of West Bengal state, India, Wednesday, May 27, 2009. The death toll from Cyclone Aila in eastern India and Bangladesh rose to at least 168 on Wednesday, officials said, while heavy rains after the storm caused deadly mudslides and slowed rescue efforts.

Associated Press

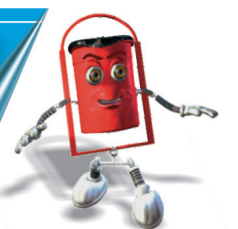
said water sources were likely contaminated by salt water from the sea.

Abani Bhushan Thakur, a local forest department official in Bangladesh, said there were no

reports of damage or casualties in their part of the Sundarbans mangrove forests. □



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North Korean threatens U.S., South Korean shipping

JEAN H. LEE

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea threatened military strikes on U.S. and South Korean ships Wednesday and renounced a 1953 truce halting the Korean War fighting — an escalation of tensions in the wake of Pyongyang's nuclear test. The threats, which follow Seoul's decision to join more than 90 nations in stopping and inspecting ships suspected of transporting banned weapons, raised the prospect of a naval clash off Korea's west coast. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton responded by saying North Korea faces consequences for its nuclear and missile tests and denouncing its "provocative and belligerent" threats. She also underscored the firmness of the U.S. treaty commitment to defend South Korea and Japan, which are in easy range of North Korean missiles.

The U.N. Security Council was debating how to punish the North for its nuclear test Monday, what President Barack Obama called a "blatant violation" of international law. Ambassadors from the five permanent veto-wielding



A North Korean soldier monitors a Chinese tour boat with binoculars along the Yalu River dividing China and North Korea near Dandong, northeastern China's Liaoning province, Wednesday, May 27, 2009. North Korea's military says it considers South Korea's participation in a U.S.-led program to intercept ships suspected of spreading weapons of mass destruction tantamount to a declaration of war against the North.

council members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — as well as Japan and South Korea were working on a new resolution.

South Korea, still divided from the North by a heavily fortified border, had responded to the nuclear test

by joining the Proliferation Security Initiative, a U.S.-led movement to stop ships from transporting banned nuclear goods.

Pyongyang lashed out at both the U.S. and South Korea, calling Seoul's move to join the PSI tantamount to a declaration of war and a violation of the truce keeping the peace between the two Koreas.

"Full participation in the PSI by a side on the Korean Peninsula where the state of military confrontation is growing acute and there is constant danger of military conflict itself means igniting a war," North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea said in a statement carried on state media.

The regime warned that it would "deal a decisive and merciless retaliatory blow" to anyone trying to inspect its vessels.

North Korea's army said it would be "illogical" to honor the 1953 armistice between the two Koreas, given the violations by the U.S. and South Korea, and said it could no longer promise the safety of U.S. and South Korean warships and civilian vessels in the waters near the maritime border.

The Korean People's Army

said in a statement that North Korea has "tremendous military muscle" and was "able to conquer any targets in its vicinity at one stroke." Clinton said North Korea has made a choice to violate U.N. Security Council resolutions, ignore international warnings and abrogate commitments made during six-nation nuclear disarmament talks.

"There are consequences to such actions," she said, referring to discussions in the United Nations about punishing North Korea for its nuclear and missile tests.

She did not provide specifics, saying only that the intent of diplomats was to "try to rein in the North Koreans" and get them to fulfill commitments made in the nuclear talks.

Clinton said she was pleased by a unified international condemnation of North Korea that included Russia and China, North Korea's closest major ally and the host of the currently stalled disarmament talks. Despite her tough words, Clinton held out hope that North Korea would return to nuclear disarmament talks and that "we can begin once again to see results from working with the North Koreans toward denuclearization that will benefit, we believe, the people of North Korea, the region and

the world."

At the White House, spokesman Robert Gibbs played down North Korea's angry rhetoric, saying the threats will only add to its isolation.

He said North Korea has threatened to end the armistice many times in the past but the peace has held.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it voiced "serious concern" about the nuclear test to the North Korean ambassador and urged Pyongyang to respect the U.N. resolutions and return to the disarmament talks.

The truce signed in 1953 and subsequent military agreements call for both sides to refrain from warfare, but don't cover waters off the west coast. North Korea has used the maritime border dispute to provoke two deadly naval skirmishes — in 1999 and 2002.

The latest confrontation comes as Pyongyang may have restarted its weapons-grade nuclear plant, South Korean reports said.

U.S. spy satellites detected steam at North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear complex, a sign it may be reprocessing nuclear fuel, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper said, citing an unidentified government official. South Korea's Yonhap news agency carried a similar report.

But the Institute for Science and International Security think tank in Washington said commercial satellite imagery by DigitalGlobe taken on Tuesday did not show any steam.

The move to restart the plant would be a major setback for international efforts to get North Korea to disarm. North Korea has about 8,000 spent fuel rods which, if reprocessed, could allow it to harvest 13 to 18 pounds of plutonium — enough to make at least one nuclear weapon, experts said.

North Korea now is believed to have enough plutonium for at least a half-dozen weapons, but experts say it still has not mastered the miniaturization technology required to mount a nuclear warhead on a long-range missile. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

French Open

Sharapova joins Safina, Ivanovic in 3rd round

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Maria Sharapova struggled again in her Grand Slam tournament comeback at the French Open, needing three sets and a few extra games to reach the third round with a 6-2, 1-6, 8-6 victory over 11th-seeded Nadia Petrova on Wednesday. Again playing with tape on her troublesome right shoulder, the unseeded Sharapova hung on to join top-seeded Dinara Safina and defending champion Ana Ivanovic in the next round.

“Obviously I am spending a little bit more time out there than I want to, but I think I’m learning so many new things, as well,” Sharapova said. “I think this was a great match where I had to fight my way through many, many challenges. And I did.”



Russia's Maria Sharapova blows a kiss to the public after defeating compatriot Nadia Petrova during their second round match at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday May 27, 2009. Sharapova won 6-2, 1-6, 8-6.

Associated Press

On the men's side, four-time defending champion Rafael Nadal and third-seeded Andy Murray advanced to the third round, but two-time Grand Slam champion Marat Safin and Fabrice Santoro each lost in their final French Open.

Sharapova, a three-time Grand Slam champion who has slipped to No. 102 in the rankings because of her injury layoff, won five straight games to close out the first set.

Trailing 4-2 in the deciding set, she broke Petrova to get back on serve at 4-4, and then saved two break points to take a 5-4 lead. She saved another break point while serving at 6-6.

“I got off to a really good start,” Sharapova said. “I kind of started stumbling away. Things went in the wrong direction.”

Continued on Page B12



CINCINNATI (AP) — Joey Votto hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning as the Cincinnati Reds rallied for a 6-4 victory Tuesday that sent the Houston Astros to their sixth straight loss.

Votto's homer off Tim Lincecum (0-1) snapped a 4-4 deadlock and sent the Reds to their third straight win, which matches their season high.

Nick Masset (2-0), who was activated off the disabled list before the game, got the victory with one inning in relief. Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth for his 13th

save in as many chances.

The last-place Astros extended their longest losing streak of the season after one of their dependables failed them again.

At Phoenix, Max Scherzer struck out 10 batters and drove in two runs, and Chris Young made a leaping catch at the fence for the final out as Arizona snapped San Diego's 10-game winning streak.

The Diamondbacks nearly blew a six-run lead for the second straight day. On Monday, they let the Padres rally from a 7-1 deficit in the

NL Roundup

Votto's homer leads Reds over Astros 6-4

eighth for a 9-7 victory in 10 innings.

On Tuesday, the Padres scored four in the eighth to pull to 6-4.

At New York, Liván Hernández shut down Ryan Zimmerman and Washington, pitching New York's first complete game of the season.

Hernández (4-1) worked around nine hits in going the distance for the 46th time in his career, most recently in May 2008 with Minnesota.

Zimmerman's streak of safely reaching base ended at 43 games. He went 0 for 4 and struck out twice, falling three games short of the franchise record set by Rusty Staub for

Montreal from 1969-70.

At Philadelphia, Joe Blanton had a career-high 11 strikeouts in seven scoreless innings as Philadelphia held on to beat Florida.

Blanton (3-3) allowed five hits in his best outing since last August. Brad Lidge pitched out of jam in the ninth to earn his ninth save in 13 chances. Lidge, who was 48-for-48 last year, including the postseason, blew consecutive save opportunities against the New York Yankees last weekend. Shane Victorino had four hits and Pedro Feliz had two hits and two RBIs for the National League East-leading Phillies, who have won nine of 12.

Marlins starter Andrew Miller (1-2) gave up four runs — two earned — and seven hits in six innings.

At Chicago, Sean Marshall allowed four hits and singled in a run, and Kosuke Fukudome homered as Chicago beat Pittsburgh to snap an eight-game losing streak on a rain-shortened night.

In other NL games it was, Philadelphia 5, Florida 3; Cincinnati 6, Houston 4; N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 1; Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 1 innings; St. Louis 8, Milwaukee 1; L.A. Dodgers 7, Colorado 1; Arizona 6, San Diego 5; and San Francisco 4, Atlanta 0. □

NBA Playoffs

Magic beats Cavs in OT, leads series 3-1

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Dwight Howard scored 10 points in overtime to lead a sharp-shooting Orlando to a 116-114 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday, giving the Magic a surprise 3-1 lead in their NBA Eastern Conference finals series.

The Magic had to overcome 44 points and a last-second shot by Cleveland star LeBron James to notch the win that puts them within a game of the NBA finals. Game 5 is in Cleveland on Thursday.

Howard finished with 27 points, 14 rebounds and 7 of 9 free throws for the Magic, who made a team

record 17 3-pointers — 11 after halftime.

"I had to get myself going," Howard said of his overtime effort, which included three dunks, a tip-in and two free throws. "My teammates found me in the right place to score and I kept scoring. "I hate losing, especially on my home floor. We kept fighting for the win."

Orlando's Rafer Alston added 26 points and Rashard Lewis and Mickael Pietrus had 17 each.

James was spectacular again, adding 12 rebounds and seven assists, but he had eight turnovers for the Cavs, whose season is slipping away.

A Lewis free throw with 3.2 seconds left gave the Magic

the 116-114 lead, and the Cavaliers one last chance.

League MVP James, who saved the Cavaliers with a 3-pointer on the buzzer in Game 2, was double-teamed on the inbound pass but still managed to get free. He got the ball, dribbled into the frontcourt and rose from 35 feet for his shot, which fell short.

James, who played the entire second half OT, has scored more than 40 in three games in the series. Cleveland is 0-3 in them.

"He didn't look tired. He just nearly hit a 50-footer from halfcourt," Howard said of James, exaggerating the distance a bit. "I love playing against him."

Cleveland's Mo Williams scored 18 points, none after the third quarter. Delonte West added 17 and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 12. History is on the Magic's side heading into Game 5. Teams with a 3-1 lead are a staggering 182-8 in series dating back to 1947.

In regulation time, Lewis' 3-pointer with 4.1 seconds



Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard, right, fouls Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) during the first half of Game 4 in the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals Tuesday, May 26, 2009, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

left gave the Magic a 100-98 lead.

Cleveland set up a clear-out play for James, who drove the right side and was tripped in the lane with half a second left.

James swished his first free throw attempt, and then after a long delay, he made his second, which danced on the rim before going in.

Orlando called a timeout

and tried a lob play for Howard, who was ridden out under the basket. There was no whistle, and Howard yelled in protest, but they ended regulation squared at 100 points apiece.

Howard picked up his sixth technical foul for taunting an opponent in the fourth quarter. A seventh technical would earn him an automatic 1-game suspension in the playoffs.

"I was just so emotional because I made the basket, I was not taunting or talking at anyone," Howard said. "We get emotional on the court and they shouldn't give a technical for that. I hope they take a look at it." □

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AL Roundup

Greinke goes to 8-1 as Royals beat Tigers 6-1

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Zack Greinke struck out eight batters while pitching his fifth complete game as the Kansas City Royals downed the Detroit Tigers 6-1 in the American League on Tuesday.

Mitch Maier drove in three runs after coming off the bench, while Greinke (8-1), who leads the majors in ERA, complete games and shutouts (two), allowed six hits and one first-inning run. For the rest of the night, his varied assortment of fastballs and corner-biting breaking pitches dealt nothing but zeros to a Detroit lineup that scored 13 runs the day before.

Greinke threw a season-high 116 pitches and did not allow a walk while his ERA rose from 0.82 to 0.84. In two starts against the Tigers this year, he has allowed one earned run in two complete-game wins.

Rangers 7, Yankees 3

At Arlington, Texas, Chris Davis homered twice and Jarrod Saltalamacchia made up for a rough game behind the plate by driving in the go-ahead run, sending Texas to a victory over New York.

The start was held up 2 hours, 24 minutes because of rain. Due to the delay, the Yankees

knew that Boston had lost, which meant a win would've tied them with the Red Sox for first place in the AL East. But New York fell behind 3-0 and never led — despite stealing a season-high five bases off Saltalamacchia and getting two more free bases on a passed ball and a wild pitch from Texas starter Kevin Millwood.

Orioles 7, Blue Jays 2

At Baltimore, Aubrey Huff, Adam Jones and Nolan Reimold homered, and right-hander Jason Berken won his major league debut as Baltimore extended Toronto's losing streak to eight games. Only 10,130 fans — the smallest crowd in the 18-year history of Camden Yards — showed up on a cold, misty night.

Summoned from minor league Triple-A Norfolk to replace Adam Eaton in the rotation, Berken (1-0) gave up two runs, seven hits and three walks in five innings. He retired the side in order only once, but stranded five runners in scoring position.

Indians 5, Rays 1

At Cleveland, Carl Pavano won for the fifth time in six starts and Ryan Garko hit one of four homers in Cleveland's a win over Tampa Bay.

Asdrubal Cabrera, Kelly Shoppach and Mark DeRosa also connected for the Indians, who won for the fifth time in seven games and earned their 15th consecutive home win over the Rays since Sept. 29, 2005.

Pavano (5-4) allowed one run and four hits over seven innings. The right-hander walked two and struck out six to continue an outstanding month. He's 5-1 with a 3.58 ERA and only seven walks against 30 strikeouts since May 1, when he got his first win of the season in Detroit.

Twins 5, Red Sox 2

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau's three-run homer capped a five-run fifth inning as Minnesota beat Jon Lester and Boston.

Nick Blackburn (4-2) struck out a career-high seven in seven innings for Minnesota, yielding a double and a walk to new No. 6 hitter David Ortiz, and the suddenly powerful Twins set up Morneau's shot with the small ball they're more familiar with.

They began the game with the fifth-most home runs in the majors after finishing next-to-last in each of the last two years. Minnesota has homered in nine straight games, the longest such streak since 12



Fans put up "K"s to mark strikeouts by Kansas City Royals starting pitcher Zack Greinke after a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Tuesday, May 26, 2009, in Kansas City, Mo. Greinke threw eight strikeouts in a complete game to beat the Tigers 6-1.

Associated Press

in a row in 2002.

White Sox 4, Angels 2

At Anaheim, California, Jayson Nix homered twice and Bartolo Colon pitched effectively into the seventh inning against his former team as Chicago beat the Angels.

Nix, who had been 0 for 7 on Chicago's road trip, hit solo shots in the fifth and seventh for his first career multihomer game. Scott Linebrink earned his first save of the season for Chicago, which beat the Angels for the second consecutive night.

Both of Nix's homers to left field came off starter Joe Saunders, who gave up three runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Athletics 4, Mariners 3

At Oakland, California, Jason Giambi's two-run single capped a four-run rally in the seventh inning as Oakland rallied for a victory over Seattle.

A's starter Dallas Braden (4-5) was unexpectedly rewarded for battling through seven innings of nine-hit ball when his teammates pounded Seattle relievers Miguel Batista (2-1) and Mark Lowe, who wasted six scoreless innings by Jarrod Washburn. After Orlando Cabrera singled home a run and Matt Holliday drew a bases-loaded walk, Oakland went ahead with a single up the middle by Giambi, who has struggled to get his average above .220 during his return to the Bay Area.

Oakland has won two straight over Seattle after losing five of the clubs' first six meetings.

In other AL games it was, Cleveland 5, Tampa Bay 1; Baltimore 7, Toronto 2; Texas 7, N.Y. Yankees 3; Minnesota 5, Boston 2; Kansas City 6, Detroit 1; Chicago White Sox 4, L.A. Angels 2; and Oakland 4, Seattle 3. □

Dawson vacates IBF belt to pursue richer fight

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Light heavyweight champion Chad Dawson has decided to vacate his IBF title after the organization refused to grant an exception to an immediate defense against mandatory challenger Tavoris Cloud.

It's the second time in recent weeks that one of the federation's most visible champions has given up its belt to pursue more lucrative bouts. Welterweight Josh Clottey vacated his title last month to fight WBO champ Miguel Cotto on June 13.

Promoter Gary Shaw informed the IBF of Dawson's decision at its annual convention on Wednesday.

"No major television network was willing to buy the fight, (and) the IBF left us little choice," Shaw said in a statement. "I respect the IBF's decision, but the fight they were forcing us to do was commercially unviable."

Dawson (28-0, 17 KOs) easily defended his IBF and IBO titles in a rematch against Antonio Tarver this month. Rather than defend against Cloud, the hard-punching 26-

year-old is reportedly eyeing a fight with former champ Glen Johnson, whom Dawson beat in a close unanimous decision early last year.

Dawson has a history of giving up belts for richer fights. He defended the WBC title three times before vacating it to fight Tarver rather than mandatory challenger Adrian Diaconu of Romania.

Cloud (19-0, 18 KOs), an exciting but relatively obscure American prospect, hasn't fought since knocking out Julio Cesar Gonzalez in a title eliminator last August. □



Chad Dawson poses for photos following his IBF light heavyweight championship boxing match victory over Antonio Tarver at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Saturday, May 9, 2009 in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Barcelona beats Man United 2-0 in final

ROBERT MILLWARD

AP Football Writer

ROME (AP) — A rare headed goal by Lionel Messi helped Barcelona beat Manchester United 2-0 in the Champions League final on Wednesday, giving the Spanish side its third European Cup title and third trophy in a magical season.

Samuel Eto'o put the Spanish champions ahead in the 10th minute and Messi's 70th-minute goal — his ninth in the Champions League this season — sealed the victory over the defending champions at the Stadio Olimpico.

The triumph completed a sweep of titles for 38-year-old Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola in his first season, after wins in the Spanish league and cup. The former Barcelona star, who started as a ball boy at Camp Nou, now joins five others who have won the title both as a player and a coach.

"When I won as a player I was young and it was magnificent," Guardiola said of his 1992 triumph at Wembley against Sampdoria. "But now winning the treble at the first attempt is marvelous." Guardiola became the youngest coach to win European soccer's top club competition since the European Cup became the Champions League in 1993. Barcelona also won the



Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola is thrown in the air in celebration, at the end of the UEFA Champions League final soccer match between Manchester United and Barcelona in Rome, Wednesday May 27, 2009. Barcelona won 2-0.

Associated Press

trophy in 1992 and 2006.

United had been chasing its fourth European Cup title, and fourth trophy this season after winning the Premier League, FIFA Club World Cup and League Cup.

But United was thoroughly outplayed by the Spanish side as Messi scored his 38th goal of an amazing year for Barcelona, which has 153 league and cup goals this season.

Xavi floated a diagonal ball into the United area to find Messi unmarked, and the 5-foot-7 (1.69 m) Argentina striker — renowned for his deft dribbling and shooting — used his head to loop the ball over United goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar and into the net.

Messi set off colorful celebrations at one end of the stadium, filled with 62,467 fans, and left English fans in silence.

The loss left Man United manager Alex Ferguson at 25 titles in 23 seasons. He failed to match Liverpool's Bob Paisley's three titles in

the competition.

"We started the game brightly. We were confident and we could have been in front," Ferguson said. "We had the ball but didn't use it very well. ... We defended fantastically all season but they were two shoddy goals."

"We didn't play as well as we can, but they are a good team. We have to give them credit. Xavi (Hernandez) and (Andres) Iniesta can keep the ball all night. They made it very difficult."

South Korean winger Park Ji-sung became the first Asian to play in a Champions League final. He almost scored for United in the opening minute but his shot was deflected wide after Cristiano Ronaldo's free kick had been blocked by the goalkeeper. It was the nearest United came to scoring all night.

The victory also marked the first Champions League title for Barcelona striker Thierry Henry, who was on the losing side when Arsenal lost to Barcelona in

2006.

"Finally, I've been waiting for so long to get this title and now finally today," said Henry, who had been doubtful for the final because of a knee injury. "The last five minutes were the longest of my life."

United almost went ahead in the opening minute when a needless foul by Yaya Toure on Anderson handed Ronaldo an early free kick. His powerful drive was blocked by the hands of goalkeeper Victor Valdes and Park's rebound was deflected for a corner by Gerard Pique.

With Barcelona's dangerous forwards barely getting a touch of the ball in the early stages, there was little danger at the other end until the Spanish champions went ahead with their first attack of the game.

Iniesta started the move with a break through midfield and found Eto'o on the right. The striker cut inside a weak tackle by Nemanja Vidic and poked a low angled shot past Van de Sar.

The goal changed the pattern of the play with Barcelona's stars settling into their confident style of interpassing. United, now chasing the game, was unable to create any real danger. Ronaldo wanted to shoot at every opportunity, but fired wide and headed over.

Ferguson reshaped his attack for the second half, sending on a second striker, Carlos Tevez and later added Dimitar Tevez. That left United undermanned in midfield and Barcelona continued to create openings.

Barcelona could have added more but Van der Sar saved twice from Carles Puyol and Ronaldo was shown the yellow card for some petulant late challenges on the Barcelona captain. □



Serbia's Ana Ivanovic reacts as she plays Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn during their second round match at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday May 27, 2009. Ivanovic won 6-1, 6-2.

Associated Press

FRENCH OPEN

Continued from Page B9

I was just glad I could pick myself up and keep fighting and do the right things, and end the match with a win." Sharapova is making her first Grand Slam appearance in almost a year after missing both the U.S. Open and the Australian Open because of her shoulder injury. She had surgery in October.

Safina easily beat 18-year-old Russian qualifier Vitalia Diatchenko 6-1, 6-1, and Ivanovic defeated Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand 6-1, 6-2.

Safina took a 5-0 lead to open the match, stretching her streak to 17 straight games after winning 6-0, 6-0 in the first round.

"Pretty good start for the tournament," said Safina, who lost in the Australian Open final and was the runner-up at Roland Garros last year. "I just played a good game today, good enough to win."

Ivanovic looked more comfortable on court after struggling in her opening match. The eighth-seeded Serb broke the 32-year-old Tanasugarn twice in the first set and three times in the second.

"I just want to sort of get my way through the rounds and just feel more comfortable match after match," Ivanovic said. "Today I think I served some aces, which gave me some confidence in my serve, and that's something I've been working on."

The 21-year-old Serb finished with three aces. □



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Pobreza se reduce en Perú, pero sigue tensión social

LIMA (Reuters) - La pobreza en Perú se redujo en 3,1 puntos porcentuales hasta el 36,2 por ciento en el 2008 frente al año anterior, informó el miércoles el Gobierno, mientras encara una mayor presión social de sectores que reclaman beneficios del crecimiento económico en el país.

El presidente Alan García, que cumplirá en julio tres años de Gobierno, ha prometido reducir la tasa de pobreza al 30 por ciento para cuando deje el cargo en el 2011.

Pero críticos a su gestión afirman que será difícil que cumpla con ese objetivo, en momentos en que la crisis mundial ya comenzó a desacelerar la actividad productiva del país.

Un alto índice de pobreza es peligroso para la estabilidad del país andino en el mediano y largo plazo y podría permitir el surgimiento de opciones de candidatos anti sistema para las próximas elecciones presidenciales, según analistas.

De acuerdo al Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI), la pobreza se registra en mayor medida en las áreas rurales o andinas de Perú, con un 59,8 por ciento, generalmente relegadas de las localidades más desarrolladas ubicadas en la costa, como la ciudad de Lima.

La tasa de pobreza en el área urbana es de 23,5 por ciento, por debajo de la cifra global, según el organismo.



Unas personas van a una revisión médica en los barrios pobres de Lima, 27 mayo 2009. REUTERS/Pilar Olivares

En tanto, la pobreza extrema -población que no accede siquiera a una canasta mínima de alimentación- bajó en el país al 12,6 por ciento el 2008 frente al 13,7 por ciento del 2007.

PROTESTAS

La reducción de la pobreza se dio en un año (2008) en el que la economía de Perú se expandió un 9,89 por ciento, una de las mayores tasas de crecimiento del mundo principalmente por el salto de sus exportaciones de materias primas.

El Gobierno enfrentó el miércoles nuevas protestas de nativos amazónicos que demandan desde hace varias

semanas la derogatoria de una serie de leyes que afirman vulnera sus territorios, ricos en recursos naturales.

Las leyes fueron aprobadas por García, usando poderes especiales que le otorgó el Congreso, en su afán de atraer las inversiones principalmente extranjeras para la exploración y explotación de petróleo, gas y recursos forestales.

En la región del Cusco cientos de nativos, con arcos y flechas, marcharon por el pueblo más cercano a las ruinas de Machu Picchu y por la única

vía del tren que conduce a la ciudadela inca, ante la mirada de asombro de los turistas.

En Lima, unas 2.000 personas marcharon por la ciudad en un rechazo a la política económica de García, protesta organizada por el gremio de sindicatos de trabajadores de Perú que provocó casos vehicular y malestar de los transeúntes.

La televisión local reportó protestas de gremios de agricultores en el interior del país, en la que no se produjeron incidentes.

MAS CIFRAS

En el 2007, la cifra de pobreza alcanzó al 39,3 por ciento en Perú frente al 44,5 por ciento del 2006, según cifras del INEI. La población peruana asciende aproximadamente a unos 28 millones de habitantes.

La crisis económica global desatada en septiembre del año pasado ya le pasó factura a Perú, que muestra una desaceleración de su producción. En el primer trimestre la economía peruana avanzó un 2 por ciento, frente al 10,4 por ciento del mismo periodo del año pasado.

El presidente García ejecuta este año un plan de estímulo económico de unos 3.200 millones de dólares, una inversión pública extra al presupuesto nacional para concretar básicamente obras de infraestructura.

El objetivo del plan es asegurar para el 2009 un crecimiento económico en torno al 3,5 por ciento. García, que cumplió el fin de semana 60 años, gobernó por primera vez entre 1985 y 1990, período cuando el país se sumió en una profunda crisis económica e hiperinflación. La pobreza en 1990 se ubicó por encima del 50 por ciento. □

Venezuela: retienen a novelista Mario Vargas Llosa

CARACAS (AP) - El afamado escritor peruano Mario Vargas Llosa fue retenido por más de una hora en el aeropuerto internacional por funcionarios de migración el miércoles tras arribar al país para participar en un foro de intelectuales promovido por una organización privada opositora al gobierno.

Tras salir de esas instalaciones interiores del aeropuerto, el escritor relató a la prensa que un funcionario de aduanas "me advirtió... que como extranjero yo no tenía derecho a hacer declaraciones políticas" en Venezuela.

Dijo que le respondió que "estando en la tierra de (Simón) Bolívar, el libertador de América del Sur, nadie podía ponerle cortapisas al libre pensamiento, a la libre expresión, y que yo iba hablar con toda libertad como lo hago

siempre".

Luego de la revisión usual del pasaporte, Vargas Llosa se trasladó al área de aduanas del aeropuerto donde debió aguardar por más de una hora mientras su equipaje era sometido a una revisión exhaustiva, según se pudo observar desde uno de los pasillos del terminal aéreo.

"Me revisaron todo el equipaje y han comprobado que no traigo nada de contrabando, ningún material explosivo, ni subversivo, salvo algunos libros de poesía", indicó Vargas Llosa. El episodio fue parecido a lo ocurrido con su hijo, el periodista Alvaro Vargas Llosa, que el lunes fue retenido por casi tres horas antes de permitírsele el ingreso al país tras una revisión de sus documentos de identificación. □

Príncipes de Asturias en Bogotá

BOGOTA (AP) - El príncipe Felipe de Borbón y su esposa Letizia Ortiz, en su segundo día de visita en Colombia, recibieron el miércoles las llaves de Bogotá y fueron declarados "huéspedes ilustres" de la ciudad.

Felipe de Borbón y su esposa, que recibieron la mención de manos del alcalde de Bogotá, Samuel Moreno, se declararon llenos de alegría y admiración por una ciudad que se ha convertido "en un centro del saber, de la educación y de la creación artística e intelectual".

Horas antes, los príncipes fueron recibidos por el presidente colombiano, Alvaro Uribe, en el palacio de gobierno. Mientras Don Felipe sostuvo un encuentro de trabajo con el mandatario colombiano, la primera dama de la nación, Lina Moreno, se reunió en privado, con Doña Letizia. Ni Uribe ni el príncipe formularon declaraciones a la salida de su encuentro. □



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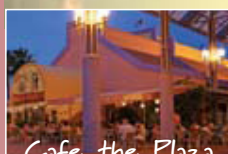
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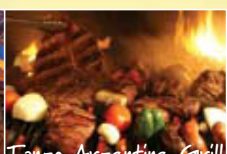
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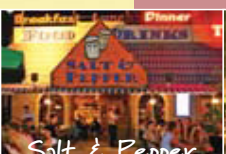
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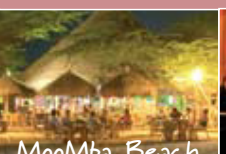
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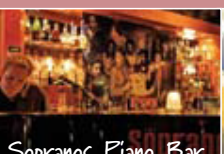
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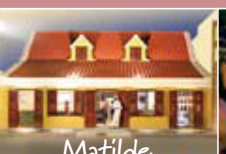
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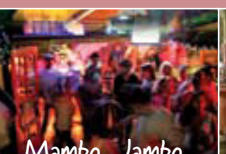
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